

MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION  
**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Helena Goodkind Building and Conference Call

**March 10, 2014**

**MINUTES**

*(Approved at the July 18, 2014 Committee Meeting)*

**Committee Members Present:**

Ken Olson, (Chair) Great Falls, by phone; Chuck Petaja, Helena

**Agency Team Members Present:**

Harry Freebourn, Administrative Director; Bill Hooks, Chief Public Defender; Wendy Johnson, Contract Manager; Kristina Neal, Conflict Coordinator; Wade Zolynski, Chief Appellate Defender; Jessie Reehl (recorder), Administrative Assistant

**Interested Parties**

Fritz Gillespie, Commission Chairman

**Call to Order**

Committee Chair Ken Olson called the meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee to order at 10:45 a.m.

**Discuss Establishment of New Programs**

The committee discussed two proposals: (1) segregate the conflict coordinator office into an independent program and (2) segregate the civil cases into a civil program. The conflict coordinator function currently exists within program one, however it operates as if it is a separate program within the confines of program 1. This function expends both program 1 and 2 funds for conflict cases. Due to the quantity of DN cases, Kristina Neal by de facto, manages both the civil and conflict programs. Mr. Freebourn identified the simplicity of the transition as the payroll (FTE) and operating costs of the conflict coordinator function have already been identified. Particularly related to DN cases the establishment of a separate program would ensure that all of the conflict cases are paid for by this new program rather than by program 1. The agency is able to identify civil costs related to its cases on an annual basis. However, since FTE do both civil and criminal cases FTE units are not as easy to identify for a civil function.

*Action Taken*

*Motion: To approve the establishment of program 3 Conflict Coordinator.*

Chuck Petaja moved to approve, Ken Olson seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

*Motion: Continue to research the viability of the establishment of a civil program.*

Chuck Petaja moved to approve, Ken Olson seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.